concerned.

Proposal to Levy Income Tax on Agriculturists

92. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to levy income tax on certain categories of agriculturists;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the estimated amount of *revenue likely to be collected per annum* as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Tax Reforms Committee headed by Dr. Raja J. Chelliah in its report has recommended that in the case of persons having income from non-agricultural sources above the exemption level and also income from agricultural sources above Rs. 25,000/-, agricultural income in excess of Rs. 25,000/-should be aggregated with non-agricultural income and income tax should be levied on the total of such aggregated income. The recommendation of the Committee is under examination. A decision thereon can be taken only with the consent of the State Governments. Therefore, at this stage, it would not be possible to estimate the likely revenue yield from this measure.

93. [*Transferred to the 3rd December,* 1992]

Apprehension about India's External debt

94. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that recently the Deputy Chairman of the Planninig Commission expressed his apprehension that the External Debt repayment cycle would start casting its shadow on the economy of this country from the next financial year;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to avert this situation;

(c) what is the estimated foreign debt repayment cycle starting from the next financial year; and

(d) what is the manner in which Government propose to repay the debt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d) the external debt situation of India is not alarming and we are in a position to honour repayment obligations as and when they arise. The Government is keeping a close watch on the situation in order to keep the external debt within prudent limits.

Proposal to develop indigenous Technology for Note Printing Presses

95. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop indigenous technology for the note printing presses in the country;

(b) if so, details of the said project; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) All the currency/bank notes are being printed indigenously in the country at Bank Note Press, Dewas and Currency Note Press, Nashik.

(c) Does note arise.